REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 20 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion in the Office Action and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the recited computer-readable medium of claim 20 is directed to statutory subject matter and thus the §101 rejection is overcome.

As to independent claim 7, the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests the recited face recognition using an embedded hidden Markov model having the recited parent and child layers with nodes corresponding to a state and super state of the model and described by a mixture of Gaussian density functions having diagonal covariance matrices. Accordingly, claim 7 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

As to independent claims 16 and 20 and the claims depending therefrom, the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests the recited subject matter. Specifically, the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests modeling an image including a face using an embedded hidden Markov model and modeling the image and an audio sample using a coupled hidden Markov model, where a subject is identified according to a matching score corresponding to the relationship recited in the claims. Accordingly, claims 16 and 20 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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